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receptacle **85** make contact with the resistive portion **81** prior to the conductive portion **82**.

Substitute the following paragraph for the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 23: **Figure 7** illustrates some prior art electrical connectors.

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The size and shape of the connectors vary. As those skilled in the art will realize, the present invention can be used with the contacts within these various connectors.

In the Abstract:

Substitute the following paragraph for the paragraph beginning at page 18, line 2: A signal connector assembly with a plug contact within a

plug having a high resistive portion. When the plug of the assembly first makes contact with the electrical receptacles within a mating receptacle, the high resistive portion prevents a current surge. As the plug is further inserted into the receptacle, the energy passing from the plug to the receptacle is gradually increased. Eventually, the receptacle contacts within the receptacle pass the high resistive portion and make contact with the conductive portion of the plug contact, thereby permitting transmission of valid signals without the generation of spurious errors.

In the Drawings:

Subject to the approval of the Examiner, please replace existing drawings, Figures 1-4, 5-8, with the enclosed drawings, Figures 1-3, 4-7, wherein the original Figure 4 is removed and Figures 5-8 are marked in red to indicate Figures 4-7 respectively.

In the Claims:

Delete claims 1 - 26.